Remark of Pakistan President on Kashmir

2958. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported remarks of Pakistan President Rafiq Tarar's description of Kashmir as crucial to that country's survival on the occasion of Pakistan's National Day ;

(b) if so, Government's views on the subject ; and

(c) steps taken to make Pakistan to understand our position on the subject unambiguously ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the reported remarks of the Pakistan President.

These remarks emphasise the fragility of Pakistan's polity, as they underline Pakistan's active encouragement and sponsorship of cross-border terrorism.

The entire State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation. India is committed to resolve all outstanding issues with Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement. Pakistan needs to demonstrate its adherence to the agreement through an abandonment of its cross-border terrorism in Jasmmu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India and its hostile propaganda against India. This position has been made known to Pakistan through word and deed.

Government remains firm in their resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Sovereignty for Kashmir

2959. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "US Body moots sovereignty for Kashmir" published in the Hindustan Times dated 19th March, 2000 ;